MARVEL

ULTIMATE BLACK PANTHER

HILL | CASELLI | CURIEL

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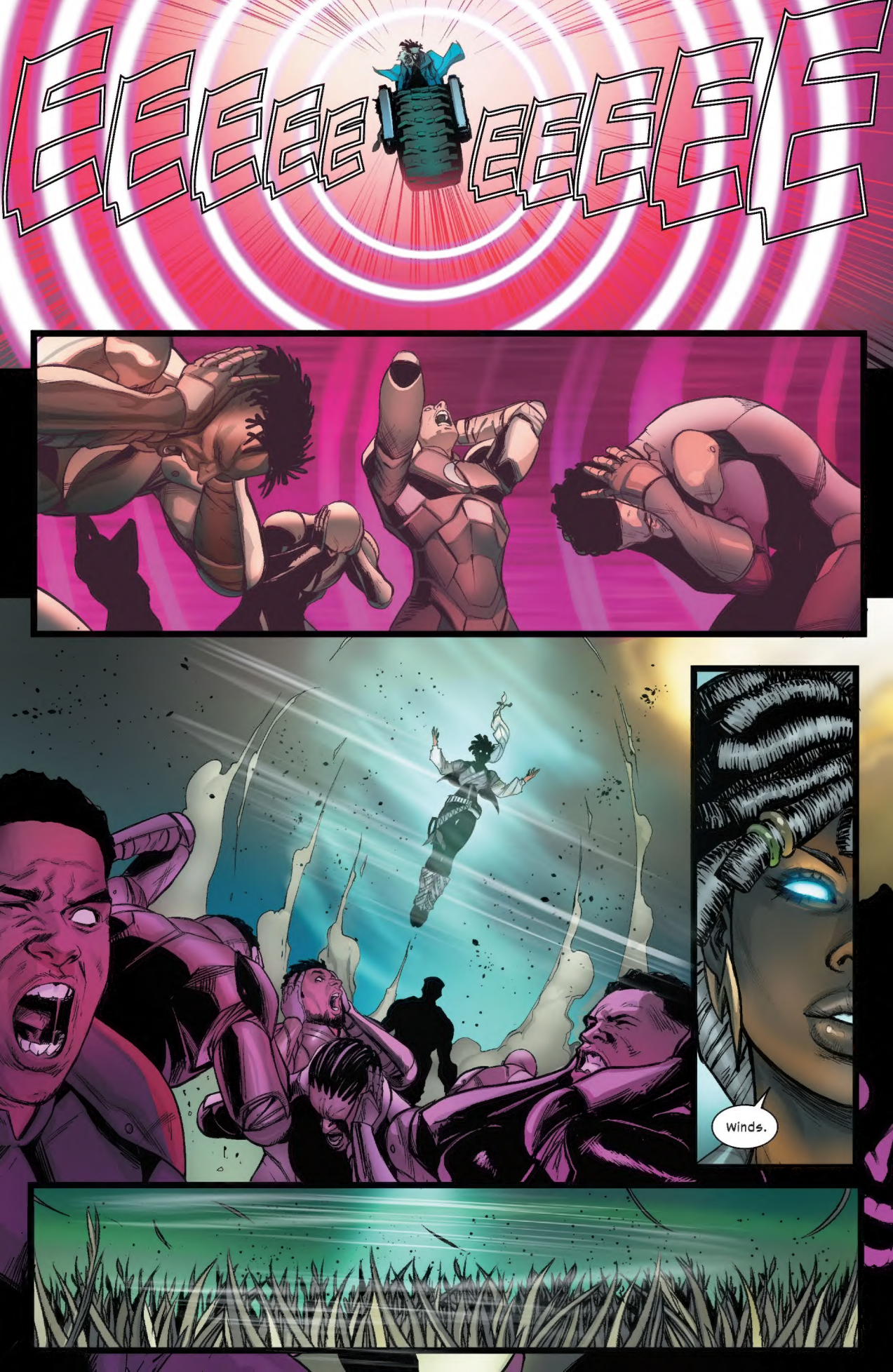
West Africa.
Wakandans. Africans. These are all my people.
I was born to protect them.
Yet they aim war at me.
Because they think they're serving a God.
I will not take their lives.
But I will show them...
...how a king can challenge a God.

VRRRRRAM
KOOOM
Stored energy in my suit.
Released in a wave of power.
It won't kill them.
But it will *stop* them.

Wakanda is at war with people we should be protecting.
And it's my fault.
RUMMMBLE
RAAAAAHHH!!!
Storm. Killmonger.
Pacify them.
But no one dies.

Treadglider: Arm sonics.
Sonics armed.
Fire.


EEEEEEEEEEEEEEE
Winds.

Father, I am commanding powers against the people I am meant to protect.
And I have failed you.
And them.
It's Gods and kings now, it seems.
It's been months of this. The war needs to end.
Recon. Find the heart of their power. Their weakness.
And then kings destroy Gods.

"Would you agree, Matron Imala, that it takes a special kind of madness...
You are more kind than your enemy, King.
I hope you don't come to regret that.
"...to pretend to be a God?
"Anyone who does is courting danger. Righteous or not.
I will not kill those Wakanda is meant to protect.
And I imagine your enemies know that.
There is cruelty in you, Ororo. Where did it come from?
"Ra and Khonshu want war. And the suffering it causes.
You grew up in *Wakanda.*
I grew up in the world *outside of it.*
"I will not give it to them--"

Wakanda.
The Garden of Bast.
--Africa will not be torn between two kingdoms.
But it is already.
You cannot stop this war. You can only master how it ends.
And what say you, Matron Imala?
I march on their kingdom with the Dora Milaje? Kill the people who serve them, watch my people die and take solace in their graves?
Yes.
You do not want to see your people die. That is admirable.
But that is not your choice. It is *theirs*.
They serve Wakanda. And Wakanda serves them.
The war won't end with an army. It ends when we understand the source of our enemy's power.

And I think you're not sharing what you know, Imala.
The Vodu-Khan have perspective on this.
Do not make me seek it.
You want certainty. The Vodu-Khan embrace *faith*. There is a difference between the two.
Matron, you yourself told me of this substance--this *element*. It can harness their psychic power, break the laws of physics.
Vibranium responds to it, but this element affects *life itself*.
So much science. My king.
In faith, there are more possibilities. This is the secret of Gods.
What if vibranium was *more* than just a metal?

"What if it had a consciousness? A will of its own.
"What if it came from the vast cosmos, alive like a seed?
"What if it is beyond science itself?
"What if this living substance was careful to hide its will?
"But its will was always working."
Are you certain that Wakanda *controls* vibranium...
...or does Wakanda *serve* it?
"In a kingdom, it gave our ancestors the vision to build.
"And we have become dependent upon it. In symbiosis.
"Powerful in its grace.

"Nothing without its strength."
The Vodu-Khan think vibranium is...alive?
They have *faith* that it could be.
Is that possible?
I am the King of Wakanda.
I am not the master of possibility.
I have no answers, Okoye. Only theory.
And what of the element Khonshu and Ra have acquired?

Vibranium may have its opposite. Or its descendant. Or its forebearer.
But Khonshu understands it in a way I do not.
And in his keep, it can terraform. Enhance life.
"And most likely destroy it."
I have never seen a stronger mind than yours.
But my mind is imprisoned by logic and reason.
Imala is right. I need to *think* as a God...to *defeat* a God.

Erik. Okoye. I need you to seek out... *someone.*
Someone who is both mystic and scientist. Find them in the world. Bring them to Wakanda.
You have a name?
If I knew whom we needed, I wouldn't ask you and Okoye to search for them.
Chase whispers. Hunt rumors. Return with someone that is no stranger to mysteries.
They will be treated well here, as they help us understand the nature of all of this.
Is this an order or a request?
Because though I reside here, I do not kneel to you.

I'm *asking.* You are fluent in the outside world, Erik. Okoye brings the discipline of the Dora Milaje.
And she will keep my conscience with you.
I will go with Erik. His conscience will be *my* responsibility.
Fine. But do not harm any innocents.
We have a kingdom growing around us. It bends the people of Africa to its will. They have turned from Wakanda to a new prophet and its new belief.
I will remain to remind Gods of their fragility.
And it begins *tonight.*
Ororo, before you and Erik go on your quest...

"...please join me on the battlefield."
LOOK--!
BRATTA BRATTA
BRATTA BRATTA
BRATTA BRATTA

Ororo.
Give me the storm.
KRAKOOM
AAAAAHH!

THWOK
UNH!
KRAK
BRATTABRATTABRATTABRATTABRATTA
HRK!

Name the one who set you free.
...The Black... Panther...
Say it again. Loud enough for all of Africa.
BLACK PANTHER!!!

CHAK
Moon Knight. What does he promise you?
He says...
...soon, there will be no place here where he cannot see.
So it is.
Then let him see this...
KRAAAAK

I suspect that is the *cry* of Wakanda.
It must be.
He has a kingdom built on sleeping power.
And it will awaken.
And the cry of Wakanda will be a *scream.*
TO BE CONTINUED...